

CHICAGO DAILY
NEWS

FEB 21 1964

Robert Oswald's Testimony 'Helpful,' May Lead to Assassination Motive

CPYRIGHT

BY RICHARD T. STOUT
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Details that might help lead investigators to a possible motive for the slaying of President Kennedy have been provided by the brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused killer.

An official of the special commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination told The Chicago Daily News that information given by Robert L. Oswald, 29, had been some of the most helpful to date in piecing together the mystery of just why the accused killer might have shot the President.

Robert Oswald appeared before the commission again Friday after meeting with members and staff for more than 10 hours Thursday.

OSWALD'S attorney, William A. McKenzie of Dallas, said Oswald plans no statement until the commission makes the report of its findings to President Johnson.

The commission official said Oswald contributed especially helpful details of his brother's early life that should aid considerably in making a psychiatric evaluation of Lee Oswald.

Other helpful information was contained in correspond-



Robert Oswald, brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, leaves for lunch after testifying before the Warren Commission in Washington. (UPI)

ence between the two brothers that Oswald brought from his home in Denton, Tex., where he lives with his wife, a daughter, 6, and a son, 3.

Commission member Allen W. Dulles, former Central Intelligence Agency director, said a number of the letters were written during the time Lee Harvey Oswald was in Russia, from 1959 to 1962.

Dulles said among the points Robert Oswald discussed were his views of his mother's opinions on the investigation and whether Lee Harvey was guilty.

Dulles and other commis-

sion members declined to say, however, what Robert Oswald's opinion was on his brother's guilt.

The mother of the two brothers, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, 56, has begun a campaign to prove Lee Harvey innocent of the slaying. Lee Harvey's wife, Marina, has said the numerous bits of evidence pointing to her husband convinced her he was the killer.

THE OSWALD brothers were close a relatively few years of their life. Robert Oswald joined the Marines at the age of 17 and was never again close to his family. Lee Harvey was 12 then.

Robert Oswald was 5 when his father, Robert E. Lee Oswald, an insurance agent, died in the summer of 1939, two months before the birth of Lee Harvey.

Mrs. Oswald placed Robert and his older half-brother, John Edward Pic, now an Air Force sergeant in San Antonio, Tex., in a Lutheran children's home, left Lee in the care of her sister and went to work.

LEE WAS also placed in the home when he was 3.

Mrs. Oswald took them from the home three years later, when she was married to her third husband, Edwin A. Ekdahl, an industrial engi-

neer. This marriage ended in divorce, as did her first marriage to Edward John Pic, a stevedore, who she says left her shortly before the birth of her first son.

Robert and Lee Oswald thus were close for nine years. According to accounts of persons who knew Lee Harvey at various times during that period, he gradually changed from a friendly, outgoing child to a quiet, somewhat sullen boy.

MUCH OF the questioning of Robert Oswald was done by Albert E. Jenner Jr., a Chicago lawyer who is among the task force of special attorneys hired to compile the voluminous details in the investigation.

Jenner is in charge of compiling details on Lee Harvey Oswald's life and his psychiatric background.

Officials said Robert Oswald was asked to testify and came voluntarily. The testimony is taken under oath.

CPYRIGHT